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Aruba's English news leader and ultimate guide to paradise

Biden looks to provide relief from extreme heat as record high temperatures persist across the US

By CHRIS MEGERIAN, MATTHEW DALY and DREW COSTLEY
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — With heat waves spreading across the United States, President Joe Biden on Thursday announced new steps to protect workers — including a hazard alert notifying employers and employees about ways to stay safe from extreme heat — as well as measures to improve weather forecasts and make drinking water more accessible.

The actions come as nearly 40% of the U.S. population faces heat advisories, according to the National Weather Service. High temperatures have already scorched the Southwest this month, and more heat is expected in the Midwest and the Northeast in the coming days. Washington won't be spared, and the heat index in the capital could reach 110 degrees Fahrenheit or 43 degrees Celsius on Friday. It's a worldwide problem, and scientists calculate that July will be the hottest month on record.

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A jet takes flight as heat ripples radiate from the runway, Tuesday, July 25, 2023 at Sky Harbor International Airport, in Phoenix.

Associated Press

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Biden looks to provide relief from extreme heat as record high temperatures persist across the US

Continued from Front

Noting that ocean temperatures near Miami topped 100 F (38 C), Biden said "that's more like jumping in a hot tub than jumping into the ocean to ride a wave." Citing federal data, Biden called extreme heat the No. 1 weather-related killer in the United States.

"Even those places that are used to extreme heat have never seen it as hot as it is now for as long as it's been," Biden said. "Even those who deny that we're in the midst of a climate crisis can't deny the impact of extreme heat is having on Americans."

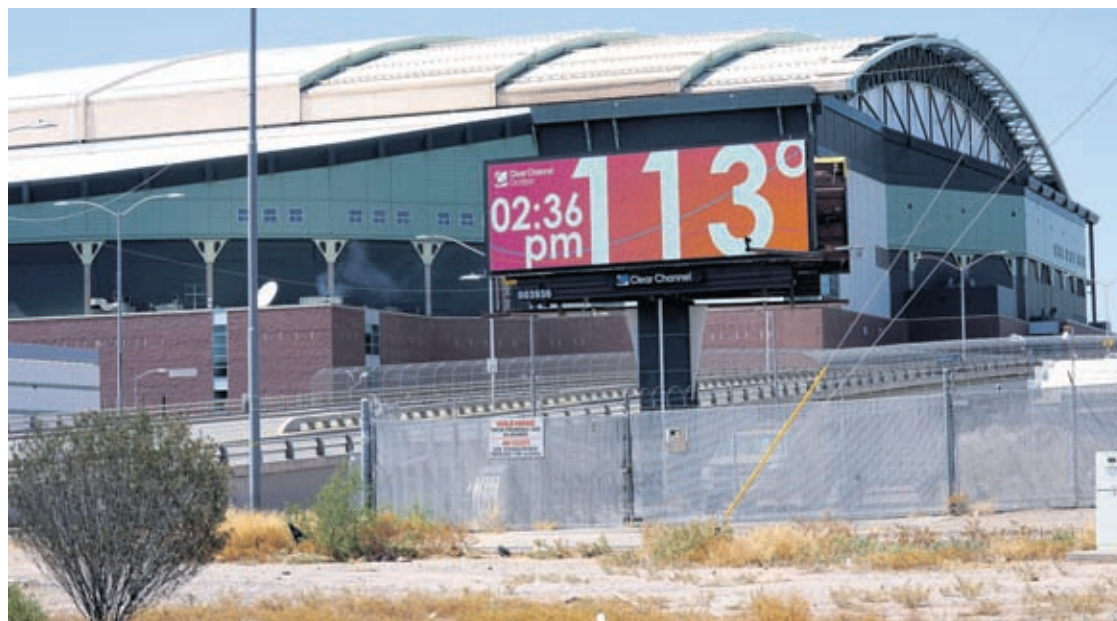
Biden's bid to address the immediate effects of climate change come as he faces pressure from fellow Democrats and environmental groups to declare a climate "emergency," a step he has so far resisted. The steps announced Thursday supplement his long-term agenda for reducing greenhouse gas emissions and deploying clean energy technology, policies that may not pay dividends for years to come while global temperatures continue to rise.

Biden directed the Labor Department to increase inspections of potentially dangerous workplaces such as farms and construction sites and called for heightened enforcement of heat safety violations.

As part of the initiative, the department will issue a hazard alert notifying employers and employees about ways to stay protected from extreme heat, which has killed 436 workers since 2011, according to federal statistics.

The Biden administration plans to spend \$7 million to develop more detailed weather predictions to anticipate extreme weather like heat waves, plus \$152 million to boost drinking water infrastructure and climate resilience in California, Colorado and Washington.

Biden was joined on Thurs-



With Chase Field, home of the Arizona Diamondbacks baseball team in the background, a digital billboard updates the time and temperature as temperatures are expected to hit 116-degrees July 18, 2023, in Phoenix.

day by acting Labor Secretary Julie Su, as well as the leaders of the Federal Emergency Management Agency and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. The mayors of Phoenix and San Antonio, two cities that have suffered from the heat waves, participated in the White House event virtually.

"Phoenix is known for heat," said Mayor Kate Gallego. "We are often called the Valley of the Sun. But right now, this summer has really been unprecedented. It's taking a real toll on our community. We feel like we are very much on the front lines of climate change."

Phoenix is the first in the nation to have a permanent, publicly funded heat office, Gallego said, with efforts now focused on getting residents inside as much as possible, at public cooling centers and encouraging use of water stations throughout the city. Phoenix has seen at least 27 days in a row of temperatures exceeding 110 F (43.3 C). No other major city — defined as the 25 most populous in the United States — has had any stretch of 110 F (38 C) days or 90-degree (32 C) nights longer than Phoenix, said weather historian Christopher Burt, of the Weather Company.

Maricopa County, where Phoenix is located, report-

ed recently that there were 25 heat-associated deaths between April 11 and July 22. An additional 249 deaths remain under investigation. There were 425 heat-associated deaths in the county last year.

Other areas of Arizona are also struggling. A 26-year-old farmworker died after collapsing in the fields on July 20, when the high temperature reached 116 F (46.7 C), according to the Yuma County Sheriff's Office.

San Antonio, Texas, saw at least 15 straight days of 100-plus F (38-plus C) temperatures. At least 13 deaths in Texas have been blamed on the extreme heat.

San Antonio Mayor Ron Nirenberg said his city has moved to end the use of coal and is launching its first advanced rapid transit line, which will feature low- or zero-emission vehicles. The city is also developing solar power and other renewable energy, he said.

"I'm confident that the state best known for oil and gas production can help lead the way to a greener tomorrow," he said.

Thursday's announcement follows other steps that the Biden administration has taken to adapt to increasing threats from extreme heat. Among those it is highlighting:

The Labor Department is developing a standard for

how workplaces deal with heat. The proposed rule by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration would require employers to provide adequate water and rest breaks to outdoor workers, as well as medical services and training to address signs and symptoms of heat-related illness. That agency's holding meetings this summer to hear comments on how the heat standard would affect small businesses.

To keep low-income populations cool, the Department of Health and Human Services expanded its Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program to provide more access to air conditioning and cooling centers such as libraries, senior centers or other public buildings. The Environmental Protection Agency also has provided assistance to help communities develop cooling centers within schools.

NOAA has been helping cities and towns map "heat islands" with dense buildings and fewer trees, and the Department of Agriculture issued guidance for creating more tree canopy coverage, which helps with cooling environments.

In addition, the administration launched a website called heat.gov with interactive maps, weather forecasts and tips for keeping cool amid record-breaking

heat. More than 100 members of Congress, led by Democratic Reps. Greg Casar and Sylvia Garcia of Texas and Judy Chu of California have called on the administration to implement the new heat standard for outdoor workers as quickly as possible.

"We know extreme weather events such as heat waves are becoming more frequent and more dangerous due to climate change," the lawmakers wrote in a letter Monday. "Urgent action is needed to prevent more deaths," the lawmakers wrote in a letter Monday.

The United Farm Workers and other groups also called on OSHA to immediately issue a nationwide rule protecting outdoor workers after farm worker deaths this month in Florida and Arizona.

"Farm workers need and deserve the access to shade, water and paid breaks," said UFW President Teresa Romero. "How many more workers will we let dangerous heat and callous employers kill before this nation acts?"

Casar, a freshman lawmaker from Austin, staged a "thirst strike" on Tuesday outside the U.S. Capitol, forgoing water breaks for nearly nine hours, to protest a new Texas law that bans local governments from requiring water breaks and other safety measures for outdoor workers. Casar called the law "insane" and accused Republican Gov. Greg Abbott of being "on the wrong side of history." Republican lawmakers and other supporters of the law say it eliminates a patchwork of local regulations that are burdensome to businesses, and they say it won't stop workers from taking breaks.

Ladd Keith, an assistant professor at the University of Arizona who studies heat policy and governance, said the record-breaking heat much of the nation is experiencing "is very much in line with climate change projections." □

Associated Press

Deep dive into Meta's algorithms shows that America's political polarization has no easy fix

By DAVID KLEPPER

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The powerful algorithms used by Facebook and Instagram to deliver content to users have increasingly been blamed for amplifying misinformation and political polarization. But a series of groundbreaking studies published Thursday suggest addressing these challenges is not as simple as tweaking the platforms' software.

The four research papers, published in *Science* and *Nature*, also reveal the extent of political echo chambers on Facebook, where conservatives and liberals rely on divergent sources of information, interact with opposing groups and consume distinctly different amounts of misinformation.

Algorithms are the automated systems that social media platforms use to suggest content for users by making assumptions based on the groups, friends, topics and headlines a user has clicked on in the past. While they excel at keeping users engaged, algorithms have been criticized for amplifying misinformation and ideological content that has worsened the country's political divisions. Proposals to regulate these systems are among the most discussed ideas for addressing social media's role in spreading misinformation and encouraging polarization. But when the researchers changed the algorithms for some users during the 2020 election, they saw little difference.

"We find that algorithms are extremely influential in people's on-platform experiences and there is significant ideological segregation in political news exposure," said Talia Jomini Stroud, director of the Center for Media Engagement at the University of Texas at Austin and one of the leaders of the studies. "We also find that popular proposals to change social media algorithms did not sway political attitudes."

While political differenc-



This photo shows the mobile phone app logos for, from left, Facebook and Instagram in New York, Oct. 5, 2021.

Associated Press

es are a function of any healthy democracy, polarization occurs when those differences begin to pull citizens apart from each other and the societal bonds they share. It can undermine faith in democratic institutions and the free press.

Significant division can undermine confidence in democracy or democratic institutions and lead to "affective polarization," when citizens begin to view each other more as enemies than legitimate opposition. It's a situation that can lead to violence, as it did when supporters of then-President Donald Trump attacked the U.S. Capitol on Jan. 6, 2021.

To conduct the analysis, researchers obtained unprecedented access to Facebook and Instagram data from the 2020 election through a collaboration with Meta, the platforms' owners. The researchers say Meta exerted no control over their findings.

When they replaced the algorithm with a simple chronological listing of posts from friends — an option Facebook recently made available to users — it had no measurable impact on polarization. When they turned off Facebook's

reshare option, which allows users to quickly share viral posts, users saw significantly less news from untrustworthy sources and less political news overall, but there were no significant changes to their political attitudes.

Likewise, reducing the content that Facebook users get from accounts with the same ideological alignment had no significant effect on polarization, susceptibility to misinformation or extremist views.

Together, the findings suggest that Facebook users seek out content that aligns with their views and that the algorithms help by "making it easier for people to do what they're inclined to do," according to David Lazer, a Northeastern University professor who worked on all four papers. Eliminating the algorithm altogether drastically reduced the time users spent on either Facebook or Instagram while increasing their time on TikTok, YouTube or other sites, showing just how important these systems are to Meta in the increasingly crowded social media landscape.

In response to the papers, Meta's president for global affairs, Nick Clegg, said the findings showed "there is

little evidence that key features of Meta's platforms alone cause harmful 'affective' polarization or has any meaningful impact on key political attitudes, beliefs or behaviors."

Katie Harbath, Facebook's former director of public policy, said they showed the need for greater research on social media and challenged assumptions about the role social media plays in American democracy. Harbath was not involved in the research.

"People want a simple solution and what these studies show is that it's not simple," said Harbath, a fellow at the Bipartisan Policy Center and the CEO of the tech and politics firm Anchor Change. "To me, it reinforces that when it comes to polarization, or people's political beliefs, there's a lot more that goes into this than social media."

The work also revealed the extent of the ideological differences of Facebook users and the different ways that conservatives and liberals use the platform to get news and information about politics.

Conservative Facebook users are more likely to consume content that has been labeled misinforma-

tion by fact-checkers. They also have more sources to choose from. The analysis found that among the websites included in political Facebook posts, far more cater to conservatives than liberals.

Overall, 97% of the political news sources on Facebook identified by fact-checkers as having spread misinformation were more popular with conservatives than liberals.

The authors of the papers acknowledged some limitations to their work. While they found that changing Facebook's algorithms had little impact on polarization, they note that the study only covered a few months during the 2020 election, and therefore cannot assess the long-term impact that algorithms have had since their use began years ago.

They also noted that most people get their news and information from a variety of sources — television, radio, the internet and word-of-mouth — and that those interactions could affect people's opinions, too. Many in the United States blame the news media for worsening polarization.

To complete their analyses, the researchers pored over data from millions of users of Facebook and Instagram and surveyed specific users who agreed to participate. All identifying information about specific users was stripped out for privacy reasons.

Lazer, the Northeastern professor, said he was at first skeptical that Meta would give the researchers the access they needed, but was pleasantly surprised. He said the conditions imposed by the company were related to reasonable legal and privacy concerns. More studies from the collaboration will be released in coming months.

"There is no study like this," he said of the research published Thursday. "There's been a lot of rhetoric about this, but in many ways the research has been quite limited." □

Judge gives deadline extension to organizers trying to stop 'Cop City' with signature campaign

By R.J. RICO

Associated Press

ATLANTA (AP) — A federal judge on Thursday significantly extended the deadline for Atlanta organizers who have been trying to gather more than 70,000 signatures to force a vote on the construction of a police and firefighter training center that critics call "Cop City."

U.S. District Judge Mark Cohen ruled that the city had imposed an unlawful requirement that those collecting signatures have to be residents of Atlanta. A group of people who live in DeKalb County just outside the city had sued saying they should be allowed to join in the canvassing effort and noting that the planned site for the training center itself is in unincorporated DeKalb County, outside the city limits.

"Requiring signature gatherers to be residents of the city imposes a severe burden on core political speech and does little to protect the city's interest in self-governance," Cohen wrote, adding: "The city has offered no specifics



Activist Hannah Riley works on her laptop at Muchacho, a local taco restaurant, while gathering signatures from fellow voters, in Atlanta, Thursday, July 13, 2023.

Associated Press

as to why permitting non-resident plaintiffs to gather signatures ... will cause any disruption to the political process."

Cohen said that the 60-day period for gathering signatures, which had put the deadline in mid-August, should be restarted. That means organizers will have until late September to gather the tens of

thousands of signatures still needed for the proposed referendum to get on the ballot.

The effort is meant to allow voters to choose whether they want to repeal the ordinance that authorized the lease of the city-owned land upon which the project is set to be built.

As of Tuesday, organizers had gotten more than

30,000 residents to sign on to the effort, according to Paul Glaze, a spokesperson for the Vote to Stop Cop City Coalition.

Attorneys for the city and state had urged the judge to toss the entire referendum campaign, calling it "futile," and "invalid," but Cohen declined to rule on its legality, saying it was not up to him to decide that

separate dispute.

"We are thrilled by Judge Cohen's ruling, and the expansion of democracy to include our DeKalb neighbors, and levels the playing field for our coalition," said Mary Hooks, a lead organizer for the coalition. "Cop City has been marred time and time again by the silencing of democratic input and repression of community participation, and since the launch of this campaign, we have been playing on a field tilted in the city of Atlanta's favor." Asked whether officials plan to appeal the ruling, a spokesperson for Mayor Andre Dickens said officials are reviewing the judge's decision and will have more information later.

"The choice is simple," the spokesperson said in a statement. "We can either have the best-trained firefighters and police officers or we can decide to settle for sub-par training conditions in sub-par facilities." Organizers have said they need to collect the signatures by Aug. 14 in order to make it onto the November ballot. □

Alaska asks Supreme Court to strike down the rejection of a proposed mine

ANCHORAGE,

Alaska

(AP) — The state of Alaska wants the U.S. Supreme Court to strike down a federal agency's rejection of a proposed copper and gold mine in southwest Alaska's Bristol Bay region.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency in January blocked the proposed Pebble Mine, citing concerns with potential impacts on a rich aquatic ecosystem that supports the world's largest sockeye salmon fishery. It was the 14th time in the roughly 50-year history of the federal Clean Water Act that the EPA flexed its powers to bar or restrict activities over their potential impacts on waters, includ-

ing fisheries.

Alaska Attorney General Treg Taylor in a statement Wednesday said having a

case heard directly by the Supreme Court rather than first in the lower courts is "an extraordinary ask, but it's

appropriate given the extraordinary decision being challenged."

"The EPA's order strikes at the heart of Alaska's sovereignty, depriving the State of its power to regulate its lands and waters," according to the court filing. An EPA spokesperson said the agency was reviewing Wednesday's filing, the Anchorage Daily News reported.

The EPA has said its decision would prohibit certain waters from being used as disposal sites for the discharge of material for the construction and operation of the proposed Pebble project. The decision also would prohibit future

proposals to build or operate a mine to develop the deposit that would result in the same or greater level of impacts.

Canada-based Northern Dynasty Minerals Ltd. owns the Pebble Limited Partnership, which is pursuing the mine. Northern Dynasty President and CEO Ron Thiessen in a statement said the company plans to support the state in its legal action and left open the possibility of pursuing separate litigation.

In cases where states sue the federal government, they can bring complaints directly to the court, though only a few such cases are heard annually. □



This Sept. 2011 aerial photo provided by the Environmental Protection Agency, shows the Bristol Bay watershed in Alaska.

Associated Press

Mexico's president offers to buy U.S. company's coastal property for \$375 million to end dispute

MEXICO CITY (AP) — Mexico's president said Thursday that he has offered to buy an American company's Caribbean coast property for about \$385 million to end a bitter, years-long dispute.

President Andrés Manuel López Obrador said a formal offer would be presented to Alabama-based Vulcan Materials. The company operated gravel extraction pits at the Yucatan peninsula site before López Obrador's administration closed them.

The company said it had not yet received the president's proposal or responded to the idea. In papers filed for a case before an international arbitration panel, Vulcan Materials valued the almost 6,000-acre (2,400 hectare) property, located just south of the resort town of Playa del Carmen, at \$1.9 billion.

López Obrador said his much lower offer was fair and based on a government assessment. He said the most attractive part of the property was the freight shipping dock, which he plans to turn into a dock for



Mexican President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador speaks at the National Palace in Mexico City, Jan. 10, 2023.

cruise ships.

As the only significant port facility on that stretch of the Caribbean coast, the dock would also be useful for transporting gravel and cement for the president's massive train construction project, known as the Maya Train.

López Obrador said he also wants to use the flooded gravel pits that the com-

pany dug out of hundreds of acres of the limestone soil as "swimming pools" or an "ecotourism" area that would be operated as a concession by a private operator.

The huge pits are inhabited by crocodiles, which are a protected species in Mexico. López Obrador left open a vague threat of seizing the property if the

offer wasn't accepted by the time he leaves office in September 2024. "Before I leave (office), this is going to be resolved, one way or another," he said, adding that the company would have to agree to drop its damages-seeking cases before the arbitration panel as part of the deal.

In 2021, Mexico's environment ministry closed Vul-

can's limestone quarry and forbade the company from exporting stone that was long used in U.S. and Mexican building projects. The president accused the company of extracting rock and exporting it without proper permits. Vulcan said it had the needed permits.

In March, the U.S. State Department said it was "concerned about the fair treatment of our companies in Mexico" after Mexican police seized the cargo terminal on Vulcan's property. Police held the port and used it to unload cargo from a Mexican cement and aggregates company, Cemex.

The president has publicly sparred with Vulcan for over a year. The dock at Punta Venado would allow cement, crushed stone and other materials to complete the Maya Train project to reach the area. Because there aren't any local supplies of crushed stone needed to stabilize the tracks, López Obrador has been forced to import the stone, known as ballast, from Cuba. □

Associated Press

U.K. government's routine housing of unaccompanied child migrants in hotels ruled unlawful

By SYLVIA HUI
Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — Britain's government acted un-

lawfully when it routinely housed newly arrived unaccompanied child asylum seekers in hotels, the

High Court ruled Thursday. A child protection charity brought legal action against Britain's Home Office and local authorities in Kent, on England's southern coast, over their treatment of unaccompanied migrant children, saying the temporary housing arrangements deny the youngsters the statutory child protection safeguards to which they are entitled. Justice Martin Chamberlain ruled that authorities breached legal duties of care owed to all children who require looking after, irrespective of their immigration status.

"Ensuring the safety and welfare of children with no

adult to look after them is among the most fundamental duties of any civilized state," the judge said. Every Child Protected Against Trafficking, or ECPAT, the charity that brought the lawsuit, said hundreds of children had gone missing, with many potentially trafficked for criminal exploitation, as a result of the failures by government.

The judge said Home Office officials had been accommodating children in hotels for over two years. Placing asylum-seeking children in hotels for "very short periods in true emergency situations" was acceptable, he said, but "it

cannot be used systematically or routinely in circumstances where it is intended, or functions in practice, as a substitute for local authority care."

The Home Office and Department for Education had opposed the legal challenges, saying the hotel use was "a matter of necessity."

"It remains a child protection scandal that so many of the most vulnerable children remain missing at risk of significant harm as a consequence of these unlawful actions by the Secretary of State and Kent County Council," said Patricia Durr, the charity's chief executive. □



A view of the exterior of the Royal Courts of Justice, which houses the High Court, in London, on Wednesday, Oct. 3, 2012.

Associated Press

Leading Hong Kong pollster to stop releasing poll results on some sensitive topics

By **KANIS LEUNG**
Associated Press

HONG KONG (AP) — One of Hong Kong's most reputable sources of public opinion data will stop releasing its poll results on a series of sensitive questions to the public, including on China's Tiananmen Square crackdown in 1989 and Taiwan independence, in another example of the city's shrinking freedoms.

The Hong Kong Public Opinion Research Institute said last month it was planning to limit its survey scope, sparking concerns over the availability of information about the opinions of Hong Kong residents.

On Thursday, the institute announced that the survey results of some 50 questions, or about a quarter of its existing questions, will be limited to internal use, academic research and commissioned services starting this month.

They included ones asking respondents whether they thought Beijing students and the central government "did the right thing" during the 1989 crackdown, in which hundreds



Robert Chung, centre, president of the Hong Kong Public Opinion Research Institute, speaks during a press conference in Hong Kong, Thursday, July 27, 2023.

Associated Press

and possibly thousands of people including many students were killed, and if they support Taiwan becoming independent.

About a quarter of its existing questions will be completely removed after its operation review, he added.

"We need to 'dance' with

the times," its president, Robert Chung, said at a news conference.

Supporters said the survey restrictions will cause a great loss for Hong Kong. Freedom of expression was once a hallmark of the Chinese-ruled former British colony.

When the city returned to

Chinese control in 1997, it was promised it could retain its Western-style civil liberties for 50 years after the handover. But critics say its freedoms eroded with the enactment of a Beijing-imposed National Security Law and other political restrictions following massive 2019 pro-democracy

protests. Large numbers of democracy supporters and a portion of the educated middle class have left the city.

Chung said his team considered factors such as public demand for its data, how widely their results have been used and previous government risk assessments on their work before making the revisions. Their conclusion was that the institute needs to conserve its resources, he said.

"In a way some of those questions might have generated some unwarranted political disputes, which we did not intend to do," he said.

The veteran pollster said "the risk factor is important" during its deliberation. But he denied his team was practicing self-censorship, insisting that they were not ceasing certain survey work due to fear.

The institute, nevertheless, canceled its planned release of a survey conducted on the anniversary of the crackdown on the 1989 pro-democracy protests at the advice of a government agency in June. □

21 dead and 40 rescued after a wind-tossed boat overturns in the Philippines

By **JIM GOMEZ**
Associated Press

MANILA, Philippines (AP) — At least 21 people died and 40 others were rescued after a Philippine passenger boat overturned on Thursday when it was lashed by strong winds in Laguna Lake southeast of Manila, police said.

Police said rescue operations were continuing, but did not immediately provide figures for the total number of people on board the MBCA Princess Aya that capsized in Rizal province.

The incident happened as the passengers onboard suddenly moved to one side of the boat in panic

when it came under fierce winds shortly after departing from a wharf for a nearby island. The boat overturned only about 46 meters (150 feet) from the



In this image from video provided by the Philippine Coast Guard, a man stands on a capsized passenger boat as they undergo rescue operations at Binangonan, Rizal province, east of Manila, Philippines on Thursday July 27, 2023.

Associated Press

shore, near the village of Kalinawan and the town of Binangonan, the coast guard said.

The Rizal provincial police said they immediately launched a search and rescue operation with the help of the coast guard and other local authorities, and that at least 40 people were saved but that 21 others drowned.

"The operation is still ongoing," police said. They did not provide other details like how many passengers and crewmembers were on board.

A video released by the coast guard showed rescuers on a local government boat pulling a body out of

the lake.

Another video showed local fishermen aboard vessels approaching the overturned boat.

Typhoon Doksuri moved away Thursday after battering the northern Philippines and whipping up seasonal monsoon rains in a large swath of the archipelago. The sinking on Thursday brought the death toll from a week of stormy weather across the main island of Luzon to at least 30.

At least nine people were reported killed earlier, mostly due to landslides, flooding and toppled trees and thousands were displaced, disaster response officials said. □

Aruba's Bocas: home to the rarest fossil reefs on the planet!



(Oranjestad)—If you've been to the northern coast of Aruba already, you've probably noticed how the ground differs entirely from the sandy beaches on the southern part of the island. These hard surfaces, with sharp bumps and holes are actually fossilized coral reefs, of which its growth and changes can be traced back to the last glacial period.

On May 30 2023, geoscientists, Dr. Patrick Boyden from the Marum research

faculty at the University of Bremen, Prof. dr. Alessio Rovere from the Ca' Foscari University of Venice and Prof. dr. Gianfranco Scicchitano, from the University of Bari Aldo Moro, presented their research on these fossilized coral reefs at the University of Aruba. Their focus for their research included studying the health and formation patterns of these coral reefs, and to investigate how these reefs have responded and can respond to fluctuating sea levels or extreme weather,

like hurricanes and tsunamis.

Through underwater and land surveillance, and 3D models of the reefs, they were able to narrow down when these formations started to take place. They were also able to track the fluctuation of sea levels during the past hundred or even thousands of years, and the effects that this fluctuation has had on the coral reefs of the windward side of Aruba.



These findings can certainly put things into perspective. The ground on which we have walked many times on the northern part of the island hold such rich history, history that dates back to a time that most of us cannot even imagine.

As the scientists themselves have pointed out, these fossilized reefs on the windward side are truly an incredible and rare remnant of geological history, as they provide a clear view of how these reefs have formed.

This research is also important for the future of coral reefs on the island. By studying rising sea levels and climate impact on these coral reefs, we are able to take concrete action in protecting and preserve our coral reefs. So, if you are ever visiting one of the bocas or driving along the northern part of the island, please be conscious to help protect our natural historical remnant.

Oh, and wear (coral-friendly) sunscreen! ☐



(Oranjestad) - Like many other cultures, an important aspect of the Aruban cultural identity is our connection to food and food traditions. The local food traditions consist of a melting pot of different cultural and religious eating habits and dishes.

Breakfast, lunch and dinner

The routine of breakfast, lunch and dinner on the island is one that does not completely follow a European or American routine, despite the major influences from these parts of the world on our culture and way of living. When it comes to the three important meals of the day, most of the Aruban population follows a Latin-American influenced routine.

Breakfast

Breakfast in Aruba is quite simple: a cup of coffee or tea, some bread, and sometimes an egg. Sometimes, due to the need of a quick "to-go" breakfast, you may also find many snack trucks and cafes that sell sandwiches, pastechis (meat pie), arepas and empanadas early in the morning.

Main Meal

The main meal is typically eaten in most households around noon or in the afternoon. This can consist of meat, fish, and chicken—stewed or fried—with funchi (polenta) or rice with stewed vegetables. Often, fried or boiled plantain or pan bati (Aruban pancake) is included. Stews are a staple in Aruban cuisine and can are largely influenced by Latin-American and Latin/

Food culture in Aruba

Afro-Caribbean Stews. Some of the more unique stews and soups from the ABC Islands* include sopi di bonchi cora (red kidney bean soup with pig tail), sopi mondon-go (tripe soup), carni stoba (beef stew), comcomber stoba (West Indian gherkin stew) and much more.

Dinner Time

Dinner time can vary significantly from household to household. Unlike the U.S. or in Europe, dinner time typically does not consist of a whole (warm) meal. Instead, the evening "meal" can typically consist of something lighter, like a sandwich, though it is not uncommon to see leftovers from the main meal reheated and eaten again. Tea and coffee are often also served with the evening snack.

(Religious) Holidays

Christmas is probably the biggest global holiday, and every culture has its own spin on what their Christmas cui-

sine entails. In Aruba, our Christmas cuisine is again largely based on Latin-American influences, most notably from Venezuela. Ayacas and the famous pan di ham* are two crucial holiday dishes, along with stuffed turkey, roasted glazed ham topped with pineapples, arroz con pollo (rice and chicken) and potato salad, among other items. Traditional drinks include ponche crema (Aruban eggnog), chuculati pinda (hot chocolate with peanut butter), and homemade fruit punch. Desserts include, bolo di pistachio (pistachio cake), bolo di cashupete (cashew cake), quesillo (flan), bolo preto (dark fruit cake), drigidek (gingerbread), pan boyo (bread cake) and more.

Snacks and tasty delights

Besides meals and dishes that are eaten on the dinner table, Aruba also has a food tradition that includes snacks and other tasty delights that you may easily find around

the island. These include, Saco*, basket, pastechi, kroket, deditos, Johnny cake and more. These snacks are usually sold at local snack trucks and cafes, often located on the side of the road. In the area of Tanki Leendert and Tanki flip, for example, there are many of these trucks parked on the side of the road and often open until late at night—offering tasty and filling snacks post night-life fun.

*ABC Islands: Aruba, Bonaire and Curacao

*Pan di ham: Derived from the Venezuelan Pan de Jamon (rolled up bread with ham, raisins and olives)

*Saco: Saco literally means "bag". Saco contains fried potatoes, plantains, chicken (and ribs) and a Johnny cake, served in a paper bag. ☐

Source: Voeding, voedingsgewoonten en gerechten op Aruba (Nutrition, Food Traditions and Dishes on Aruba) by Biblioteca Nacional Aruba

Rhythms Circus Company Aruba: putting Aruba's name on the world stage



Rhythms Circus Company Aruba is a talented group of young people working daily to present their art in the form of acrobatics, dancing, acting and singing. After an impactful participation in one of America's biggest talent shows, they are now bringing their amazing talent to Aruba!

In a show full of light, music, and with performances to famous musical figures like Elvis Presley, Michael Jackson and Tina Turner, the group consisting of 15 people from various countries delights the audience with their artistic prowess at the Paseo Herencia Mall, every Wednesday and Friday starting at 7pm. Each day has a different show, so you can attend both nights for the complete experience!

The group, under the leadership of directors and creators Diego Jaramillo and Yamila Hernandez are opening the doors to the ballroom to our local audience as well as our visitors so that everyone can have the privilege of experiencing this wonderful show.

Hernandez explained that the idea for

this project started in 2010 when she came to work in Aruba. After being on the island for a while she decided to stay and live here, and she met Diego Jaramillo, who is currently her partner. Together they came with the idea to establish a company together with other professional artists, with the goal of living from their art.

Hernandez says that the work is hard – all of the performers are professional artists, and while the production of the show is not a challenge for them, selling the idea proved difficult since at the time, there weren't any shows of its kind on the island.

America's Got Talent

Currently they are offering a show with music, choreography and at the end, they have a shocking acrobatics ending, one that was seen by thousands of people around the world when the group travelled to Los Angeles in the United States to represent Aruba in America's Got Talent. Hernandez said that the show was very important for them to meet the public present because people could experience this performance live and right before their eyes.

Their presentation in America's Got Talent "was incredible" and they were able to meet the jury and many other artists staying there for three months. But the exhaustion and physical toll was so great that Diego suffered an accident, and because of this, they had to cancel all future commitments.

"This is work for which you must have a lot of respect. Circus as such implies a lot of risk, we have to give all of ourselves, we need to be in a physical state where you cannot stop training, there needs to be steadfastness; but if you go past the



limit, your body cannot handle it. It seems that during this tour we went over the limit and Diego was injured right when we had to go sign up for the next part of the tour with America's Got Talent. That was frustrating," Yamila explained.


Thanks to their performance in America's Got Talent, they received a lot of offers. However, before that they travelled to Hungary, to the Budapest Circus Festival, and afterwards they decided to return to and remain in Aruba to show their talents up close at home.

Future projects

Next month in July the group is travelling to Italy to perform at the show "Tu si que vales", and in August they are travelling to France for the program "La France a un Incroyable Talent", completing their travels in November in China, to perform at the Wuqiao International Circus Festival.

Even so, "these are short tours of maximum two weeks, because we are committed to our show in Aruba," Yamila explained.

Reservations and tickets

To make a reservation to see this incredible display of creativity and acrobatics, scan the QR code which will take you directly to their website for a booking. To find more information about RCCA, please visit their Instagram page @rccaruba. 



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Aruba Tourism Authority honored loyal visitors at Costa Linda Beach Resort

The Aruba Tourism Authority recently had the great pleasure to recognize a Goodwill Ambassador of Aruba. This Ambassador was respectfully honored with a certificate acknowledging her years of visits, loyalty, and love for the island of Aruba.

The honor certification is presented on behalf of the Minister of Tourism as a token of appreciation and to say "Masha Danki" to guests who have visited Aruba 10, 20, or 35 years or more consecutively.

The three honoring levels are as follows:

Distinguished Visitor (10>years consecutively visiting Aruba)

Goodwill Ambassador (20>years consecutively visiting Aruba)

Emerald Ambassador (35>years consecutively visiting Aruba)

The honoree was:

Goodwill Ambassador Ms. Kira Stickley from Florida, United States.

Ms. Kimberley Richardson representing the Aruba Tourism Authority, and staff members of the Costa Linda Beach Resort bestowed the certificate to the honoree, presented her with memorable gifts, and also thanked her for choosing Aruba as her best-loved vacation destination, and as her home away from home.

Top reasons for returning to Aruba provided by Ms. Kira were:Aruba's nice sandy beaches
Aruba's sunsets

Aruba's wildlife
Aruba's year-round sunny weather
Aruba has a variety of restaurants to choose from

On behalf of the Aruba Tourism

Authority, we would like to express our sincere gratitude and appreciation to the honoree for her continued visits to the "One Happy Island". ☐

Why You Should Not Miss Aruba's Free City Center Street Car Tour

ORANJESTAD - Aruba's City Center Street Car - or as we call it in Dutch; "Tram van Oranjestad" - is a single track tram line in Oranjestad, the capital city of Aruba. It was inaugurated on 22 December 2012, being the first and so far the only passenger rail service on Aruba and the rest of the Dutch Caribbean. There are two trolleys, a

single-deck one with 42 seats and a double-decker with 64 seats. The line was inspired by the popular battery-powered streetcar operation at the Grove in Los Angeles, USA. Aruba's streetcars are powered by hydrogen fuel cells, which are charged by the island's year-round trade winds.



Caya Betico Croes, mostly referred to as our "main street" has been developed into a pollution-free pedestrian mall. The double-decker offers you a 360 degree view of the down town area with a picture perfect scenery of the island's clear blue skies. Who would not enjoy a ride on this beautiful and naturally air-conditioned vehicle? The tour consists of a total of 9 stops approximately 200 meters apart from each other; all stops are clearly marked. The tram will bring you close to different museums, historical plazas, monuments, the Protestant church, Aruba's high-end mall, retail shops, and a variety of local and international cuisine restaurants. The "I love Aruba" trademark also belongs to that list. The third stop on the route is close to a 5-minute walk to the famous Renaissance Marina showcasing luxurious yachts and Aruba's blue



waters.

The "Tram van Oranjestad" starts from a balloon loop near the Port of Call and serves the downtown area and ends at Plaza Nicky. The first ride starts at 10:00 am sharp with intervals of 25 minutes. The last trolley departs from the cruise port at 5:00pm. Don't miss this tour of the beautiful Aruba's City Center - it is free for all! ☐

Renee Servello: “I’m always busy with books now”

This week we had the pleasure of catching up once again with Renee Servello, this time on her 28th time visiting our island with her husband Anthony and her son Ty. After bringing her humor and laughter with her two first books, ‘You’re Kidding, I’m a Senior’ and ‘Humor All The Way,’ Renee now has expanded to children’s book with two touching stories: “Petey the Pug Escapes for 24 Hours” and “Freckles Finds a Forever Home.” Renee shared with us some stories of the wonderful characters that inspired her books.

When we spoke with Renee last year, she told us that what makes Aruba so special for her is her special relationships with the people. “You can go to other islands, but the people are not that friendly. You hear everybody say that Aruba is a friendly island, but it really is. We travel a lot, and it’s really friendly! This is like home for us.” This time she is back together with her son Ty, who is one of the main characters in her new book, “Petey the Pug Escapes for 24 Hours.”

“Last year I saw you with two humor books,” she said, “and this year I’m seeing you with two children’s books.” Both books are based on true stories. Renee told us it was her consultant who suggested she try writing a children’s book, but she had already written one! She had written the story of Freckles, their pet rabbit. “If you’ve never had a rabbit... they’re very clean animals and it’s never dull with a rabbit in the house, they’re always into things, and a lot of fun. I had one growing up, and then we got one a few years ago.” Renee says she wrote the book about freckles because she was just so entertaining. “She was a ‘people bunny.’ Every time the door bell rang, she’d knock us out of the way – she was only four pounds – to get to the front door to see who it was. She’d stand on her hind legs and watch people as they came in. She loved people, and people loved her! She was famous in the neighborhood and with all of the family because she was just so cute and so much fun.”

The Servellos had Freckles loose at home and she was always exploring. Renee says once she disappeared and for eight hours they were looking for this rabbit trying to find her. “My son in law said, try opening a closet, maybe she



jumped into a closet? And that’s where she would be, just waiting for us to open the door!”

Aside from the fact that she loved Freckles so much, Renee says she wanted to write the book for her grandchildren, to leave something for them. However, in a lovely twist, people who are adoptees can relate to the character of Freckles, who finds her forever home. She’s had people write to say that Freckles related to their adopted children. She tells the story of her cousin that actually adopted four children, and she called and said her 10 year old had been keeping his light on. When asked why his light was still on as he should be sleeping, he said “mom, I’m reading about Freckles!” When the mom mentioned that he has read the book many times, he said “mom, you don’t understand. Freckles is me! I found a family that loves me, and Freckles found a family that loves her.”

“That makes me feel just fabulous, that the adopted children can relate to Freckles, as she was so special to us,” Renee says. “And apparently she is very special to children that have been adopted.”

About “Petey the Pug Escapes for 24 Hours”, Renee says this is also a true story. “My son brought me the story, he worked as a manager at a golfing facility. Little Petey dug out of his yard which was near by

the golfing facility, and he made it inside.” All these golf balls were flying around him, and the truck that comes around to collect these balls realized they had to get him out of there because he could be hit by a ball. So he was picked up and brought in, and everybody took charge and they wanted to play with Petey and all day long the guests were fighting over Petey. “This went on and on and on. He had a lot of things going on that day. And finally, my son was closing and they said, ‘what are we gonna do with this dog?’ and he said, ‘well, I’m gonna take him home.’ And he made a bed, and they had a slumber party!”

She has been writing two books a year, “I’m always writing books now!” she said. However, that doesn’t get in the way of her visiting her second home, Aruba.

About her latest visit to Aruba, Renee says she is enjoying it “as always!”

Last year we asked her, since she is so humorous, if she had any funny stories about Aruba. “And I said oh, yes, of course!” she said this week. “Well, I need to clarify that, they’re in the new book coming out!”

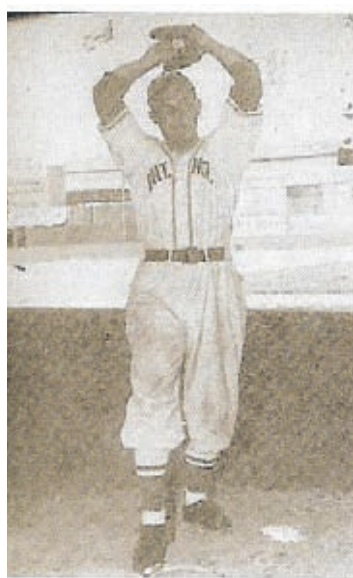
However, she did give us a funny story for now. “Our first year, we stayed at La Cabana, and we were happy to see that you had the big Dutch cheese balls here. So we decided that everybody we knew here – no, I decided,

my husband wasn’t in on this – so I decided everybody needed a cheese ball from Holland. So when Anthony was in the shower, I had already gone out and bought the cheese balls, which are quite big. So when he was in the shower, I packed five in his suit case and five in my suitcase, and we were in a hurry to get to the airport that day. And he said, ‘Renee, why is my suitcase so heavy?’ and I said, ‘I don’t know. We don’t have time to discuss this, let’s just get to the airport.’ So everything went well, and we landed in Miami, and that was the year when, when you get off the plane, you had to x-ray your luggage. Well, they saw our bags, and had everybody evacuate the room. All the passengers that we had been on the plane with, they evacuated, they said, ‘get out of here’ and most people went, but they kept us! So they called my husband and they asked, ‘sir, what are you carrying in your suitcase?’ He says, ‘I don’t know! Renee did the packing, you talk to her.’ And [the security agent] said, ‘they look like bombs.’ And I said, ‘no, no, no. Dutch cheeses! There are ten of them. My husband didn’t speak to me for ten days after that!’”

Visit our website arubatoday.com to read our past interview with Renee, and also visit our Facebook page, facebook.com/arubatoday to see our video interview for this article. □

Short history of the beginnings of baseball in Aruba

ORANJESTAD — Baseball was played on the island of Aruba in the 1930's, but only by United States expatriates working for LAGO and living inside the LAGO colony. Jim Bluejacket, the legendary US Indian who had played in two major league teams, worked for LAGO during 14 years and was a key factor in the growth of the popularity of the game in the colony. There is no record of Bluejacket ever playing outside the colony.



Outside the colony, the game of baseball was introduced to Aruba by Venezuelan immigrants and sailors on the Venezuelan fishing boats that used Aruba as their home port. They formed pick-up teams and played games on Sundays on an open field behind what is now the Court of Justice. One of the Venezuelans that comes to mind is Felix Garrido, grandfather of our current Prime-Minister.

In the late 30s the leader of this group was Raúl Aparicio, a cousin of Luis Aparicio who is now enshrined in the Hall of Fame in Cooperstown. The Aparicios were evidently very good at sports. Raúl had two brothers who also played baseball, René and Roman. Rosendo, his only brother who did not play baseball became a professional soccer player in the Venezuelan league. Rosendo was nicknamed "Cabeza de oro" (golden head) for a memorable header he scored to win a game for his team.

Interestingly, it was in Aruba that Luis Aparicio played his first game outside of Venezuela. This took place in 1950 when he played shortstop for the school he attended. Later he played for "Cabimas" in a double-header of the Venezuelan Western League. These official games of the league were authorized to be played in Aruba by the Professional Baseball Organization of Venezuela. Several others who played

in those games have also been enshrined.

Luis Aparicio's father was the super popular Luis "El Grande" (the great one) after whom the baseball stadium in Maracaibo is named. He and his brother owned the professional baseball teams "Gavilanes" which later became the "Aguilas", and the "Cabimas".

In the early '40s, another group, mostly immigrants from the Dominican Republic also became very active with pickup teams. Some of these remained active in baseball well into the early '50s; as umpires, managers even as players. Among these were Nestor "Pantin" Guerrero who also had a musical band. Perhaps not so coincidentally, many of Pantin's players were also musicians. Luthai Pantophlet who umpired many years was a well-known drummer. Gaston Hazel was a bongo player; José Bryson and the brothers Nicholson, Teddy and Julio, all played several instruments.

In San Nicolas, baseball was played on the grounds next to where the LAGO Sport Park (now Laveist Sport Park) was officially inaugurated in March 1941.

During the WWII years, baseball got a big lift from the influx of Puerto Rican and US soldiers stationed here. As LAGO was playing a very important role in the struggle against Hitler, it was able to get all the sports equipment needed here to allow more people to participate.

In the '40s only the Lago Sports Park organized baseball championship games. The first teams to participate were Artraco, (Aruba Trading Co.), Esso Garage and Botica San Lucas. In 1945 Venezuelan employees of the Lago refinery participated under the name of "Cafenol", a very popular Venezuelan coffee brand. Two other groups of Venezuelan im-



migrants formed the teams "Cerveceria" (named after the iconic team Cerveceria Caracas), and "Venezuela", although not all members of these teams were Venezuelans. This was also the year that the team sponsored by Roxy Café started to play as "Dodgers". Dodgers became the dominant baseball powerhouse till the 1950s.

Other teams that entered the baseball scene in the late 1940s: Pepsi Cola (Oranjestad) and St. Thomas Boys (former students of St. Thomas College, Oranjestad). "Baby Ruth" in San Nicolas played initially under the name "Camel" and "Barnes' Ramblers" the only team consisting of Lago Colony players to participate in the Lago Sport Park championships. "Red Rock Cola" was formed in Oranjestad in 1950. In 1952 the team Pepsi Cola became "Nesbitt's" and had players of seven countries, including two American expats from Lago Colony.

In 1950 a group of prominent members of the Aruba community founded the Amateur Baseball Bond of Aruba (ABBA) to give structure to the management of the sport and became the organizers of official championship games. While maintaining the existing teams in a league that was referred to as A-class, ABBA established a B-class league in which the "Budweiser" and "Braves" played the first years.

By 1952 Aruba became a member of the International Amateur Baseball Association and fielded a team

managed by Joe Proterra, (former pitcher of "Barnes' Ramblers"), that would play for the first time ever in the Amateur Baseball World Series that took place in Havana, Cuba in September. Surprisingly, Aruba won two of its six games and became the darling of the Havana fans. Nell Harms of the Aruban team was named the "Outstanding player of the week" for his performance against Honduras. He allowed just two hits, struck out 15 and hit the only homerun of the game. Joe Cambria, the famous scout for the Washington Senators offered him a contract, but Nel was not interested, but the next year, at the Amateur Baseball World Series in Caracas, Venezuela, Nel and Ruben Phillips did sign and in 1954 they played professional baseball the Georgia-Florida League and the Texas-New Mexico League. They were the first Arubans to play professionally, but not the only ones.

During the games in Havana, contacts were made with the organizers of Little League Baseball in Cuba which eventually resulted in the introduction of Little League in Aruba. Little League of Aruba has been extremely successful: It has produced many players who earned baseball scholarships at universities in the United States, a few who played professionally in the Netherlands and different countries in the Caribbean and five who reached the major leagues: Calvin Maduro, Eugene Kingsale, Radhames Dijkhoff, Sydney Ponson, and Xander Bogaerts one of the brightest stars of Boston Red Sox.

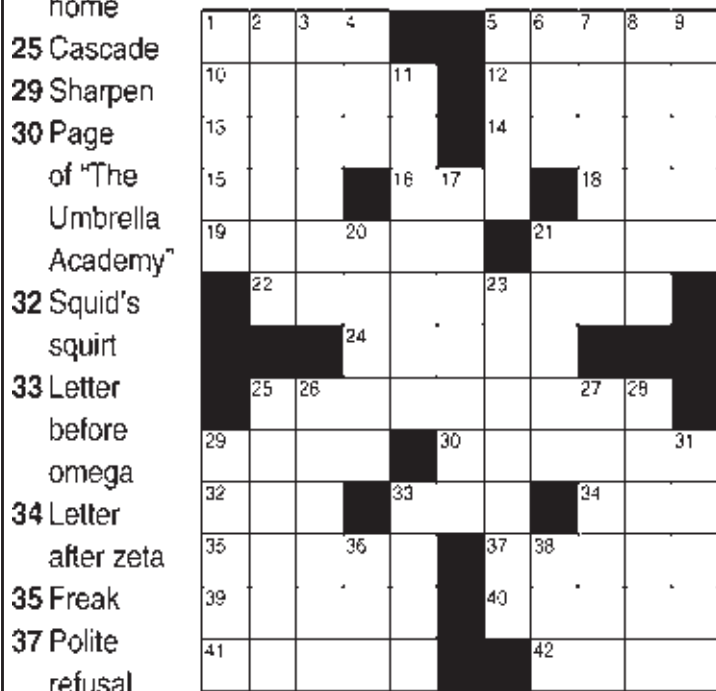
Written by Mr. Clyde Harms

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

- ACROSS** 39 Quebec
1 Diamonds, native
e.g. 40 Florida
5 Gooney player
stuff 41 Sports
10 Leading figures
12 Praline bit 42 Theater
13 Inge work award
14 Striped
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- DOWN** 7 Doomed 26 Turkey's
1 Fizzy flier capital
queasy quaffs 8 Grow up 27 Deceives
16 Back 2 Green, 9 Foe 28 Hand
muscle perhaps 11 Choice of soother
18 Toddy 3 Napoli's colors 29 Daily
base nation 17 Sticks tempera-
19 Like some 4 Singer 20 Packing tures
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21 Rage 5 Petty 21 Last 33 Corrals
22 View from fight 23 Ran- 36 Poker
the moon 6 Table sacking prize
24 Dined at part 25 Prevailed 38 Bran bit
home



7-29

AXYDI.BAAXR
is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

7-29

CRYPTOQUOTE

F M N B O M V T . V G G Q F M C F P

O P T B F G E P O B D N G B L O M R

O M O D F G M O H P W G B D .

— I E I F O V J F H R

Yesterday's Cryptoquote: LET US LIVE LIKE FLOWERS. WILD AND BEAUTIFUL AND DRENCHED IN SUN. — ELLEN EVERETT



Yesterday's answer

Sick of hearing about record heat? Scientists say those numbers paint the story of a warming world

By SETH BORENSTEIN
AP Science Writer

The summer of 2023 is behaving like a broken record about broken records.

Nearly every major climate-tracking organization proclaimed June the hottest June ever. Then July 4 became the globe's hottest day, albeit unofficially, according to the University of Maine's Climate Reanalyzer. It was quickly overtaken by July 5 and July 6. Next came the hottest week, a tad more official, stamped into the books by the World Meteorological Organization and the Japanese Meteorological Agency.

With a summer of extreme weather records dominating the news, meteorologists and scientists say records like these give a glimpse of the big picture: a warming planet caused by climate change. It's a picture that comes in the vibrant reds and purples representing heat on daily weather maps online, in newspapers and on television. Beyond the maps and the numbers are real harms that kill. More than 100 people have died in heat waves in the United States and India so far this summer.

Records are crucial for people designing infrastructure and working in agriculture because they need to plan for the worst scenarios, said Russell Vose, climate analysis group director for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. He also chairs a committee on national records.

In the past 30 days, near-



A woman poses by a thermometer, Sunday, July 16, 2023, in Death Valley National Park, Calif.

Associated Press

ly 5,000 heat and rainfall records have been broken or tied in the U.S. and more than 10,000 records set globally, according to NOAA. Texas cities and towns alone have set 369 daily high temperature records since June 1.

Since 2000, the U.S. has set about twice as many records for heat as those for cold. "Records go back to the late 19th century and we can see that there has been a decade-on-decade increase in temperatures," said Gavin Schmidt, director of NASA's Goddard Institute for Space Studies, keeper of the agency's climate records. "What's happening now is certainly increasing the chances that 2023 will be the warmest year on record. My calculations suggest that there's, right now, a 50-50 chance."

The larger the geographic area and the longer stretch of time during which records are set, the more likely the conditions represent climate change rather than daily weather.

So the hottest global June is "extremely unlikely" to happen without climate change, as opposed to one city's daily record, Texas state climatologist John Nielsen-Gammon said.

Still, some local specifics are striking: Death Valley has flirted this summer with the hottest temperature in modern history, though that 134 degree Fahrenheit (56.7 Celsius) record is in dispute.

Phoenix grabbed headlines among major U.S. cities on Tuesday when it marked a 19th consecutive day of unrelenting mega heat: 110 degrees Fahrenheit (43.3 Celsius) or more. It kept going, reaching a 22nd straight day on Friday. The daytime heat was accompanied by a record stretch of nights that never fell below 90 Fahrenheit (32.2 Celsius).

"Everybody's drawn to extremes," Vose said. "It's like the Guinness Book of World Records. Human nature is just drawn to the extreme things out of curiosity."

But the numbers can be flawed in what they portray. The scientific community "doesn't really have the vocabulary to communicate what it feels like," said Stanford University climate scientist Chris Field, who co-chaired a groundbreaking United Nations report in 2012 warning of the dangers of extreme weather from climate change. □

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Samsung unveils foldable smartphones in a bet on devices with bending screens

By KIM TONG-HYUNG

Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)

— Samsung Electronics on Wednesday unveiled two foldable smartphones as it continues to bet on devices with bending screens, a budding market that has yet to fully take off because of high prices.

The clamshell-designed Galaxy Z Flip 5 and Galaxy Z Fold 5, a larger device that opens and folds like a book, can be pre-ordered in certain markets including the United States and South Korea starting Wednesday.

Built with 6.7-inch and 7.6-inch main screens, the phones have bigger displays than Samsung's previous folding devices and are equipped with more advanced cameras, providing crisper visuals and more features for work, text and video chats, movies and games, the company said. Designed to be compact and easy to carry, the Flip 5 is also built with a 3.4-inch cover screen that allows it to be used folded in half. The phones, which run on Qualcomm's Snapdragon 8 Gen 2 processor chips, are slightly sleeker and lighter than their predecessors but designed to be more durable and shock-resistant.

All that technology comes with hefty price tags. In the United States, Flip 5 will start at around \$1,000 while the Fold 5 is set at \$1,800.

Samsung, a South Korean technology giant that's also a major producer of computer memory chips, has been the longest provider of folding phones, releasing its first devices in 2019.

The company announced the new phones at a lavish product event in South Korea's capital, Seoul, choosing one of the markets where folding phones are closer to being mainstream products than novelties.

Foldable devices accounted for around 40% of Samsung's high-end devices



Samsung Galaxy Z Flip 5 Phones displayed during the Galaxy Unpacked 2023 event at the COEX in Seoul, South Korea, Wednesday, July 26, 2023.

Associated Press

sold in South Korea last year and the share is expected to increase in 2023, TM Roh, chief of Samsung's mobile business, said during a meeting with a select group of reporters.

While Samsung has goals to develop cheaper folding phones, Roh said it's difficult to specify when they would come, considering the complicated engineering involved and the tradeoffs between cheaper components and advanced functions people expect for such devices.

But high prices will not prevent foldable phones from becoming mainstream in global markets, Roh said.

"The form factor is not something that's entirely new – it's actually something people have been very accustomed to for a long time," Roh said, pointing to a reporter's notebook that folded.

"People want products that fold, making them easier to carry and protect important information ... and then to flip them open to use and make notes.

That has been a natural pattern for such a long time, for people in both the East and West." □



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Horror flick 'Talk to Me' is a hand-some high-five for twin Australian filmmakers

By **MARK KENNEDY**

AP Entertainment Writer

You've got to hand it to the Philippou brothers. They've taken an old horror cliché a severed hand and made something worth, well, applauding.

"Talk to Me," which hits theaters this Friday, is a stylish, well-crafted piece of filmmaking that marks the auspicious arrival of twin Australian filmmakers Michael and Danny Philippou.

Directed by the brothers from a script by Danny Philippou and Bill Hinzman, "Talk to Me" is modern and yet ancient, with just enough jump-cuts and zombies and dread, but not too much. It also downshifts out of madness in the final third to explore loss and guilt just when most films would ramp up the running-from-scary-guys part.

Our focus here are a pack of teens in Australia. Teens Down Under are pretty much the same as they are everywhere snarky, peer-pressure-y and clique-y. But in addition to stealing their parents' booze and smok-



This image released by A24 Films shows Sophie Wilde in a scene from "Talk to Me."

Associated Press

ing, these guys have a porcelain hand that is a doorway to hell.

Curiously, these teens don't sit around and play beer pong or spin-the-bottle. They take turns holding the hand and inviting whatever bug-eyed, damp and foul demon to enter their

body. (For not too long, though: 90 seconds sounds good before someone needs to cut the connection.) The kids film it all on their phones and post it on social media. (Who should get royalties isn't clear.)

OK, let's talk about this hand, which initially just

looks like one of those mannequin pieces you find in upscale jewelry stores to show off expensive rings. It's got loads of graffiti but looks pleasant enough. Underneath the porcelain we're told, might be the severed hand of a medium or a satanist. Don't ask a

lot of questions about how some teens in suburban Australia got it. Talk to the hand.

What's surprising is the joy it brings to our weird group. Being possessed in this movie is a rush an unconventional idea in the horror genre even though the demon who briefly controls you can do embarrassing things, like make out with a dog. The script seems to be playing with notions of recreational drugs as much as horror here.

The heroine of this tale is played by Sophie Wilde and it's her vehicle to stardom, too. It's a role that asks her to be sad, exuberant, frightened, deadly, possessed, lusty, mournful and vengeful. She is all those things and more. She's one to watch.

Her Mia is grieving the anniversary of her mother's suspicious death and a demon that may or may not be mom shows up during their little game. That leads the plot in the second half to go supernatural and where holes in the logic tend to stretch. □

ESPN considers adding sports leagues as partners as it transitions from cable to digital

By **JOE REEDY**

AP Sports Writer

SANTA MONICA, Calif. (AP)

— ESPN chairman Jimmy Pitaro said the network could take on a sports league as a minority part-

ner as the network continues its transition from a cable channel to a digital company.

"I will emphasize that we believe there are parties out there that can help

us on the content side. So you can draw whatever conclusions you want from that," Pitaro said Tuesday during a seminar sponsored by CNBC and Boardroom, a sports media company founded by Kevin Durant. Pitaro declined to say which leagues have been in talks with him and Walt Disney Co. CEO Bob Iger, but he said there has "been a healthy level of interest" from leagues as well as technology, marketing and distribution companies. Pitaro also said it is not a question of if but when ESPN will roll out a direct-to-consumer product to view its offerings.

A league having an equity stake in a network like ESPN would be groundbreak-

ing and would pose some questions about fairness and objectivity in coverage. It would mark another step in sports' relationship with its broadcast partners. Some teams have equity stakes in regional sports networks, while all four major U.S. professional leagues have their own channels. Some have also wondered about ESPN's future within the framework of Disney, which Pitaro tried to address by saying, "Bob (Iger) has been clear about the power of live sports and power of the ESPN brand, how important it is to the future of the Walt Disney Company." With cable audiences continuing to shrink, a direct-to-consumer option would help re-

coup some financial losses. According to its most recent filing, ESPN has 72.5 million cable subscribers and 25.3 million for its ESPN+ streaming service.

There is no timetable for ESPN releasing a direct-to-consumer product, which would give consumers a way to view programming from ESPN's channels without a cable subscription. ESPN+ subscribers currently still need a cable subscription to access that content. LionTree Chairman and CEO Aryeh Bourkoff said it would be tough for ESPN to go it alone as it transitions from linear to digital and that partnerships have become as crucial for businesses as much as mergers and acquisitions. □



A button for ESPN+ is on a remote control in Portland, Ore., Aug. 13, 2022.

Associated Press

Leon Marchand and Summer McIntosh are sure to star in the pool at Paris Olympics

By STEPHEN WADE

AP Sports Writer

FUKUOKA, Japan (AP) —

Watch out for these two young swimmers when you take in next year's Paris Olympics: 21-year-old Leon Marchand of France and 16-year-old Summer McIntosh of Canada.

Marchand won his third gold medal at the swimming world championships, taking the 200-meter individual medley on Thursday in 1 minute, 54.82 seconds. Add this to his earlier gold in the 200 butterfly, and his world record in the 400 IM the last individual record held by Michael Phelps. Marchand obliterated it by more than a second, finishing in 4:02.50.

"It was amazing, and I'm very proud of it," said Marchand, who pushed British teammates Duncan Scott to silver (1:55.95) and Tom Dean to bronze (1:56.07).

"It was a very painful race, but exciting," Marchand added. "Almost killed me, but it was good."

Marchand trains at Arizona State University under Bob Bowman, who coached Phelps to 23 Olympic gold medals.

McIntosh won her first gold after coming up short in two earlier races where some billed her as a favorite. She was fourth in the 400 free-style and took bronze in the



Leon Marchand of France competes during the men's 200m individual medley final at the World Swimming Championships in Fukuoka, Japan, Thursday, July 27, 2023.

Associated Press

200 free.

McIntosh won the 200 butterfly in 2:04.06, repeating her title from last year's worlds. She also set a world junior record. She is only 16, remember.

Elizabeth Dekkers of Australia took silver in 2:05.46 and Regan Smith of the United States earned bronze in 2:06.58.

"Going into tonight I just wanted to see how hard I could push and how much I could hold on in the second half," said McIntosh, who won by a full body length.

It's unfair to say that McIn-

tosh's first two races were disappointing, but she did lose her world record in the 400 free to Ariarne Titmus of Australia.

Another one to watch is 18-year-old David Popovici of Romania. But he was disappointing at the worlds in southwestern Japan.

Popovici is the world-record holder in the 100 free with a time of 46.86, but in that race on Thursday he was sixth behind winner Kyle Chalmers of Australia (47.15), silver medalist Jack Alexy of the United States (47.31), and Maxime Grosset of France (47.42). Popo-

vici finished in 47.83.

Popovici was fourth earlier in the meet in the 200 free. He suggested he might have raced too much, and will need to train harder to stay on top. Getting there was the easy part.

"I feel good. I feel good that it's over," he said. "After I take some time off for myself and clear my head reflect on this very busy and weird year I'm going back to the pool. And fortunately for me, what hasn't gone perfectly here is trainable. I'm going to be just fine." Popovici's 200 was a red flag.

"As soon as I touched the wall in the 200, this thought flashed in my head, which was: I need to train better. I need to train more," he said. "And more importantly, I need to be more consistent. That's the glue that holds it together."

The other end of the emotion spectrum was Chalmers, who won Olympic gold in the 100 free in Rio de Janeiro when he was 18. Now's he's finally added the world title, which completes the the gold set.

He referred to going through shoulder surgery, heart surgery and "some pretty bad mental health times" in his seven-year return to gold.

"In 2016 I was an 18-year-old and I probably didn't know what I had achieved," he said. "For me, I've had to work so hard for seven years and sacrifice so much. I wanted to make sure that the early-on wasn't a fluke."

"There were times I thought I'd never get back to swimming fast," he added.

Kaylee McKeown led from start to finish to pick up gold in the women's 50-meter backstroke. The 22-year-old Australian got off to a fast start and held on to prevail in 27.08. Smith won another medal and took silver in 27.11, and Lauren Cox of Britain got bronze in 27.20. □

Frances Tiafoe launches a charitable fund at the tennis center where he grew up

By HOWARD FENDRICH

AP Tennis Writer

COLLEGE PARK, Md. (AP) —

Frances Tiafoe stood with his hands on his hips and feigned disappointment Thursday after his partner during a doubles drill dumped an overhead into the net. Moments earlier, on the same courts at the Junior Tennis Champions Center (JTCC) where he learned the game not far from the nation's capital, Tiafoe jokingly chastised another of his temporary teammates — all aged 10

or under — for not celebrating a good shot properly, explaining the importance of yelling and punching the air.

A semifinalist at the U.S. Open last year and now ranked in the ATP Top 10, he took part in the clinic with dozens of kids after a ceremony to announce the launch of The Frances Tiafoe Fund in conjunction with the USTA Foundation, the charitable arm of the sport's national federation. "I've wanted to do this for a long time. It's something

I've always been passionate about. I love people. I love helping people," the 25-year-old Tiafoe said. "I'm a product of this place. I'm a guy who was given a chance — who wouldn't have really had one — and look what I was able to do with it. I feel like more people need to be given that, especially in this area, and especially people who look like me. I know how much influence I have in this area, so I'm happy to start it here in D.C."

His parents emigrated from



Tennis player Frances Tiafoe participates in a youth tennis clinic, Thursday, July 27, 2023, in College Park, Md.

Associated Press

Sierra Leone in the 1990s during a civil war there. They moved to Maryland, where his dad helped construct the JTCC in College Park, then worked as a

maintenance man there. So that's where, and why, Frances and his twin brother, Franklin — who took part in Thursday's on-court drills, too — picked up tennis. □

The Angels said they won't trade Shohei Ohtani, and he celebrated by throwing a 1-hitter

By **LARRY LAGE**
AP Sports Writer

DETROIT (AP) — Shohei Ohtani is staying with the Los Angeles Angels, at least for the rest of the season. The Angels said they have decided not to deal the two-way superstar, a morning after making a significant move that signaled they're in win-now mode. It was welcome news in the Angels' clubhouse, and Ohtani celebrated with a gem he pitched the first complete game of his Major League Baseball career Thursday, spinning a one-hitter in a 6-0 victory over the Detroit Tigers. "We're going to roll the dice and see what happens," Angels general manager Perry Minasian told reporters in Detroit before a doubleheader against the Tigers, just days before MLB's trade deadline. Ohtani will be a free agent this winter. Even though the franchise risks losing the 29-year-old slugger and starting pitcher on the open market there's speculation he could fetch \$500-600 million it is moti-



Los Angeles Angels pitcher Shohei Ohtani throws against the Detroit Tigers in the fourth inning during the first baseball game of a doubleheader, Thursday, July 27, 2023, in Detroit.

Associated Press

vated to make its first play-off appearance in his six major league seasons. "I love Shohei Ohtani," Minasian said. "He comes in, prepares, works, goes out and performs on a nightly basis. Obviously, does both (hitting and pitching). He's a great teammate. He takes this really seriously. He eats it. He sleeps it. "He's somebody that we would love to have going

forward." The 2021 AL MVP leads the majors in homers and OPS at the plate and is among the leaders in opponent batting average and strikeouts on the mound. "He's doing the impossible," Tigers manager A.J. Hinch said. "We're playing against a generational talent." Aiming to bolster their chances of earning a spot in the postseason for the

first time since 2014, the Angels acquired right-handers Lucas Giolito and Reynaldo López from the Chicago White Sox on Wednesday night. Giolito is expected to make his Angels debut Friday night against Toronto. The franchise is desperately hoping to get rid of its reputation for wasting the talents of MVPs Mike Trout and Ohtani. Owner Arte Moreno's club has the

majors' longest streaks of consecutive losing seasons (seven) and consecutive non-playoff seasons (eight, tied with Detroit). And as long as the Angels can keep Ohtani on the team, they plan to do just that. "I never went up to Shohei and said, 'Hey, we're not trading you,'" Minasian said. "Think I made it pretty clear the last time we talked, I think, that he wasn't going anywhere. I don't know if anybody believed me." The Angels also made another decision, designating 2021 All-Star slugger Jarred Walsh for assignment. Walsh hit .119 with one homer and five RBIs in 28 games this season, coming off an injury-stunted 2022. He's been struggling with headaches and insomnia this year. "Gone through some hard times, and he's trying to find it back," manager Phil Nevin said. "I know he'll keep working. I hope he remains with us because I know when he gets on top of his game, we're a better team with him." □

The Pirates are sending 1B Carlos Santana to the Brewers

By **WILL GRAVES**
AP Sports Writer

PITTSBURGH (AP) — Carlos Santana is heading to Milwaukee. The Brewers are acquiring the veteran first baseman/designated hitter from the Pittsburgh Pirates in exchange for minor leaguer Jhonny Severino, a source tells The Associated Press. The person spoke to the AP on Thursday on condition of anonymity because the deal wasn't finalized. The 37-year-old Santana hit .235 with 12 home runs and 53 RBIs in 94 games for the Pirates, who have faded to last place in the NL Central following a fast start. The Brewers lead the NL Central as the trade deadline approaches and are hoping Santana can help boost an offense that is just 25th in runs scored, thanks

in large part to a lack of production from the first base and designated hitter spots all season. First baseman Rowdy Tellez is batting .213 with 12 homers down from 35 last season and has been on the injured list for the last three weeks. Tellez had 17 stitches removed this week from his left ring finger, which suffered a tuft fracture when it got stuck in the outfield wall while he was shagging fly balls in Cincinnati. Tellez already was on the injured list with right forearm inflammation when he hurt his finger. The Brewers acquired Jesse Winker from Seattle this offseason with the intention of making him their main designated hitter, but he is batting .199 with only six extra-base hits (five doubles and one homer) in 197 plate appearances.

Winker's prolonged slump has caused his playing time to drop significantly. The club owned a 57-45 record and a three-game lead in the NL Central race when the Brewers traded four-time All-Star closer Josh Hader to the San Diego Padres, a move that stunned the clubhouse as well as the fan base. The Brewers went 29-31 the rest of the way and missed the playoffs for the first time since 2017. The Pirates signed Santana to a one-year deal in the offseason, hoping his veteran presence could provide stability to a young roster trying to learn to win. Pittsburgh got off to a 20-8 start, but has stumbled for most of the last three months. Santana could be the first of several Pirates who could



Pittsburgh Pirates' Carlos Santana celebrates after hitting a two-run home run during the third inning of a baseball game against the San Diego Padres, Monday, July 24, 2023, in San Diego.

Associated Press

be on the move with a shot at the postseason unlikely. Pitcher Rich Hill, who like Santana signed a one-year deal in the offseason, could be attractive to a contender. The Pirates also have a pair of young All-

Stars on the roster in closer David Bednar and pitcher Mitch Keller, both of whom are affordable and under team control, making them a potentially attractive target for teams in the thick of the playoff chase. □